

P.O. Box 111
Highmore, SD 57345

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:


I am writing to participate in the public comments on the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I support the settlement. It is not perfect, but it is far better than continuing to have lawyers haggle in court over the fate of one of America's chief engines of prosperity and innovation. It is gratifying to know that you directed your department to work to settle this case, and let Microsoft continue to innovate.

Since the settlement is acceptable to Microsoft, it is acceptable to me. Microsoft agreed up a lot of its property and a lot of its rights. That must not have been easy. Microsoft gives up to the software industry the code of its internal interfaces and server interoperability. It will license its intellectual property to any company that wants to use it on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. It will make it easy for computer makers, software companies and consumers to remove the programs Microsoft includes gratis in Windows, like Internet Explorer, and replace them with their own.

This case has gone on too long, with too little to show for it, and at too great a cost. Your efforts to have the federal court approve this settlement will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

cc: Senator Thomas A. Daschle

Sincerely,



Roger Ballew